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### **Amendments to the claims**

Below is a listing of all claims in the application with the amendments shown in revision marking:

Claims 1-44 (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Amended) A textile-based amusement article to be played with, enticed or retrieved by a domestic animal comprising:

an outer textile casing formed of a tough, chew-resistant material defining a shape in the form of a small article for luring or being fetched by the domestic animal and comprising a high-pile component attached to a backing material to form an artificial fleece, the material formed in two layers sewn together at the edges with the high-pile component outwardly; and an effective amount of a microbe-cidal agent applied to the textile casing, wherein the microbe-cidal agent is non-toxic and non-carcinogenic when ingested by domestic animals at the levels used in the amusement article.

46. (Previously presented) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 45 wherein the textile casing comprises fibers selected from the group consisting of acrylics, polyester, nylon, olefin polymers, triacetate, rubber and spandex fibers.

56. (Previously presented) A textile-based amusement article to be played with, enticed or retrieved by a domestic animal comprising:

an outer textile casing formed of a tough, chew-resistant material defining a shape in the form of a small article for luring or being fetched by the domestic animal and comprising a high-pile component attached to a backing material to form an artificial fleece, the material formed in two layers sewn together at the edges with the high pile component outwardly; and

a microbe-cidal agent applied to the textile casing in an effective amount and is selected from at least one of the group consisting of heavy metal salts, halogenated dioxides, quaternary ammonium compounds, halogenated compounds, sulfur compounds, phenyl

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derivatives, phenoxy derivatives, thiazoles, chlorinated phenolic compounds, poly-substituted immine salts and phosphate esters, and mixtures thereof.

57. (Previously presented) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 56 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is chlorine dioxide.

58. (Previously presented) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 56 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenol.

59. (Previously presented) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 56 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is non-toxic and non-carcinogenic when ingested by domestic animals at the levels used in the amusement article.

60. (Currently Amended) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 45 wherein the outer textile ~~fabrie~~ casing is treated with a compound to impart at least one of low surface energy, non-hydrophilic properties, antistatic properties and antiadhesion properties.

61. (Currently Amended) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 45 wherein the outer textile casing comprises an outer fabric layer and the ~~microbe-inhibiting-cidal agent or property~~ comprises a microbe-impenetrable laminate on an inner surface of the outer fabric layer.

62. (Previously presented) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 61 wherein the microbe-impenetrable laminate comprises a thermoplastic film or latex polymer.

63. (Previously presented) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 62 wherein the microbe-cidal agent is applied to or incorporated into the thermoplastic film or latex polymer.

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64. (Previously presented) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 45 and further comprising an odor-absorbing agent selected from at least one of an activated carbon and a zeolite compound.

65. (Currently Amended) A textile-based amusement article according to claim 45 wherein of the outer textile casing is impregnated with a flame resistant modacrylic polymer.